

Conf Pam  
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To the Congress  
Conf Pam q#127  
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# To the Congress of the Confederate States of America:

We, the undersigned, citizens of the Confederate States of America, of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, in the State of \_\_\_\_\_,

would beg leave to petition your Honorable body to order that no contracts be made, requiring mail-carriers to carry the mail, or Postmasters to keep open Postoffices on the Sabbath day. This will be but conceding to them the same privilege which is conceded to all other officers and citizens of the Government, and not only conceded as a privilege, but required as a duty by the laws of the land, viz: that of abstaining from labor on the Sabbath. The importance of observing one day in seven, as a day of rest, is generally, if not universally, admitted by the people of this Confederacy. "The Sabbath was made for man," and is essential to the development and maintenance of his physical and intellectual powers, to the cultivation of his moral qualities, and to the attainment of the highest ends of his existence.

This truth being recognized in the legislation both of our State and Confederate Governments, and also the fact that the observance of the day is enjoined by divine authority: that which requires the conveyance and delivery of the mail on that day constitutes an exception to the general law and usage. For this exception, in the humble opinion of your petitioners, a sufficient reason does not exist, especially since the invention and general employment of the electric telegraph. If the country derives any advantage from its Sabbath mails, we think that advantage more than counterbalanced by the evils attending them. They make additional expense to the Government. They not only deprive Postmasters and mail-carriers of that rest which the law of nature requires, and that religious culture which is necessary to make them good citizens even, not to speak of their higher interests and relations, but they necessitate the running of coaches and rail road cars on that day, by which many are tempted to travel abroad, the minds of others are diverted from profitable meditations, religious worship is disturbed and the day is secularized.

But besides these and other evil effects of a Sabbath mail, we deprecate its continuance as a public violation of an acknowledged law of the Supreme Ruler, on whose favor we depend for national as well as individual prosperity.

We have now before us the dissolution of the United States Government, which has ever been a persistent violator of the divine law in regard to the Sabbath. We regard this as one among the causes that have brought disaster upon that Government. And it is because we earnestly desire the favor of heaven to rest upon our Southern Confederacy, to establish and preserve it, that we seek the removal of this and all other causes of divine displeasure against it, remembering who has said:

"Them that honor me I will honor."

Therefore, we hope that your honorable body will be pleased to receive our petition with favor, and we, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

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